

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Container with~~ A container with a container body or lower element (~~2—2u~~) and with a closure (~~3—3u; 36, 37, 38, 44~~), characterized in that the lower container element (~~2—2u~~) and/or the closure (~~3—3u; 36, 37, 38, 52~~) is elastically deformable in at least one partial section (~~4.1, 24, 43, 46, 59, 60, 61~~) with a high restoring force for creating a vacuum in the closed container.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lower container element and/or the closure are formed at least in one partial section by a wall section (~~4.1, 24, 43, 46, 59, 60, 61~~) made of an elastic material with a high restoring force.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~, wherein the lower container element and/or the closure outside of the at least one elastically deformable wall section is made of a hard material.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 2 ~~or 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one elastically deformable wall section (~~4.1~~) is formed by a membrane-like wall section of the closure (~~3—3u~~).
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed by an accordion-like wall section (~~16, 24, 59~~) of the closure and/or of the lower container element (~~2—2u~~).
6. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed by a convex wall section (~~19, 43, 16, 61~~) forming a bulge or a reduction.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized by claim 1, further comprising~~ means on the at least one elastically deformable
section for increasing the restoring force.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ at least one ventilation opening that can be closed by a
sealing element (7, 8, 14) is provided on the closure and/or on the lower container element.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the ventilation opening is provided in the container closure or lid.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that claim 8, wherein~~ the ventilation opening is provided in the container
body or in the lower container element.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that claim 8, wherein~~ the sealing element of the at least one ventilation
opening is a manually controllable valve (7).
12. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that claim 8, wherein~~ the sealing element on the ventilation opening is an
automatic valve (8).
13. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the valve comprises a valve body (11), which comprises an elastic or spring-action
section (11.2) that works together with a valve seat on the ventilation opening.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the valve body (11) consists of a first section (11.1) made of a hard material for
fastening the valve body and of an elastically deformable section (11.2) provided on the first
section that works together with the valve.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the valve body is made of plastic, ~~preferably~~ using the two-component injection molding process.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the elastically deformable wall section (4.1) is manufactured as one piece with the container closure and/or the container body or lower element, ~~preferably made~~ of plastic using the two-component injection molding process.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the at least one deformable section is formed by an element (4.1) that is connected with the container closure and/or the container body or lower element, ~~for example~~ by gluing, welding or joining.
18. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the container closure (3—3u) ~~can be~~ is fastened on the container body or lower element (2—2u) in an airtight and/or gastight manner.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the closure (3—3u) comprises an edge forming a circular groove (22, 56) and that when the container is closed one edge (55) of the lower container element is held by ~~the~~ a groove (56).
20. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove and the edge of the container body or lower container element comprise a self-sealing, e.g. wedge-shaped or approximately wedge-shaped cross section.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 19, wherein a circular seal (57) is provided in the groove (56) and/or a circular seal (58) made of a soft elastic material is provided on the edge of the lower container element or container body.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 21, wherein the seal (57, 58) is fastened to the closure (3—3u)
 and/or on the container body or lower element, for example by being molded on, e.g. using a
 two-component injection molding process.
23. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 19, wherein the groove holding the edge (55) of the container body
 or lower element is formed by a groove of a circular seal (25).
24. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable section is formed
 by a seal (25) between the closure (3e) and the container body or lower element (2e).
25. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized by its design as~~ claim 1, comprising a container for keeping food fresh with a
 lower container element (2—2i) and a container lid (3—3i).
26. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the elastically deformable section (4-1) is a section of the container lid.
27. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 25 ~~or 26, characterized in~~
~~that~~ , wherein the elastic deformable section is formed by an elastically deformable wall
 section (15).
28. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 25—27, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ , wherein the elastically deformable section is formed by an accordion-like section (16) of
 the walls of the container body (2g).
29. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 25—28, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ , wherein the elastically deformable section is formed by a convex section (16), preferably
 with reinforcing elements (17).

30. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the container body (2h—2m) is designed as a can.
31. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the container lid (3m) closure is linked to the container
body (2m) and/or can be locked on the container body by means of a bent-lever closure (20).
32. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized by its design as~~ claim 1, wherein the container is a butter dish with a dome-
shaped container lid (3n, 3o) and an essentially bottle-shaped lower container element (2n,
2o).
33. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 32, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the deformable section on the container lid (3n) is designed for example in the form
of an accordion-like section.
34. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 32 or 33, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ , wherein the deformable section is formed by a seal (25) between the container lid (3o)
and the lower container element (2o).
35. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the container (1—1u) in a closed condition ~~can be~~ is
deformed by the at least one elastic section in the direction of the container axis and/or
radially to the container axis.
36. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the container lid (3p, 3qu) closure can be screwed onto
the container body or the lower container element.
37. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the closure can be pressed onto the container body or
the lower container element.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the container body (2—2u) and/or the closure or the
 container lid (3—3u) are designed so that the containers can be stacked.
39. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the container body or the lower container element has
 a round, oval or square cross section.
40. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the container body or the lower container element (2r,
 39) is a bottle.
41. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the closure is formed by a cap (34) with an inner seal
 that can be placed on the mouth of the bottle, wherein the cap is made of the permanently
 elastic material in at least one partial section (4.1) of its bottom.
42. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the closure (36, 37, 38) forms an outwardly closed
 hollow body (36.1, 37.1, 38.1), which when the closure is placed on the container (39) is
 connected with the interior of the container, and that the hollow body (36.1, 37.1, 38.1) is
 made of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force at least in one partial
 section of its peripheral wall.
43. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 42, wherein the elastic material with a high restoring force is an
 elastomer, ~~preferably an elastomer available under the brand name Styroflex.~~
44. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that the~~ claim 1, comprising means for increasing the restoring force of
 material sections (17) ~~are~~ made of a permanently elastic material, preferably material sections

(17) provided in grooves in the accordion-like wall section, ~~for example~~ ring-shaped material sections enclosing the container on its periphery.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that the~~ claim 1, comprising a sealing element (25) forming the elastically
 deformable section has a cross section with a larger cross section side in the axis direction
 parallel to the container axis than in an axis direction extending perpendicular to the same.

46. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized by~~ claim 1, comprising means for limiting the movement stroke of the at least
 one elastic section, ~~for example~~ by belts or stops bridging the at least one elastically
 deformable section (59).

47. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable section is formed
 by a reduction (60) or bulge (61) enclosing the container axis in a ring-shaped manner.

48. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the closure (44) consists of a ring-shaped closure body
 (45) with a seal (47) that can be placed on the respective container (49) and of a membrane
 closing the opening of the ring-shaped closure body, said membrane being made of the
 elastically deformable material with a high restoring force.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to claim 48, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the closure body (45) forms a protruding edge (48) on one side opposing the seal (47).

50. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 48, wherein the closure (52) comprises a closure body (53)
 designed as a hollow body (53.1) with an opening enclosed by a ring seal (47) and that the
 hollow body (53.1) is made in at least one partial section of the elastically deformable material
 with a high restoring force.

51. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~

~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the closure (36, 37, 38, 44, 52) is designed as a reclosable closure for closing a container until the contents of the container are ultimately consumed.

52. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ The container according to ~~one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the closure and/or the container body outside of the elastically deformable section are made of a material other than plastic, ~~for example of such as~~ glass or metal.

53. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure for a container, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closure (3—3u; 36 37, 38, 52) is elastically deformable in at least one partial section (4.1, 24, 43, 46, 59, 60, 61) with a high restoring force for creating a vacuum in the closed container.

54. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to claim 53, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closure at least in one partial section of one wall section is formed from an elastic material with a high restoring force.

55. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to claim 53 or 54, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closure outside of the at least one elastically deformable wall section is made of a hard material.

56. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable wall section (4.1) is formed from a membrane-like wall section of the closure (3—3u).

57. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed from an accordion-like wall section (16, 24, 59) of the closure.

58. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed by a convex wall section forming a bulge or a reduction.

59. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized by claim 53, further comprising means on the at least one elastically deformable section for increasing the restoring force.
60. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 53, further comprising at least one ventilation opening that can be closed by a sealing element (~~7, 8, 14~~) is provided on the closure.
61. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 60, wherein the sealing element of the at least one ventilation opening is a manually controllable valve (~~7~~).
62. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 60, wherein the sealing element on the ventilation opening is an automatic valve (~~8~~).
63. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to claim 62, characterized in that wherein the valve comprises a valve body (~~11~~), which comprises an elastic or spring-action section (~~11.2~~) that works together with a valve seat on the ventilation opening.
64. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to claim 63, characterized in that wherein the valve body (~~11~~) consists of a first section (~~11.1~~) made of a hard material for fastening the valve body and of an elastically deformable section (~~11.2~~) provided on the first section that works together with the valve.
65. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to claim 64, characterized in that wherein the valve body is made of plastic, preferably using the two-component injection molding process.
66. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 53, wherein the elastically deformable wall section (~~4.1~~) is manufactured as one piece with the closure, preferably of plastic using the two-component injection molding process.

67. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the at least one deformable section is formed from an
 element (4.1) that is connected with the container closure, ~~for example~~ by gluing, welding or
 joining.
68. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the container closure (3—3u) can be fastened on the
 container body or lower element (2—2u) in an airtight and/or gastight manner.
69. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the closure (3—3u) comprises an edge forming a circular groove (22, 56)
 and that when the container is closed, one edge (55) of the lower container element is held by
 the a groove (56).
70. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to claim 69, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein
 the groove and the edge of the container body or lower container element comprise a self-
 sealing, e.g. wedge-shaped or approximately wedge-shaped cross section.
71. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein a circular seal (57) is provided in the groove (56)
 and/or a circular seal (58) made of a soft elastic material is provided on the edge of the lower
 container element or container body.
72. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 71, wherein the seal (57, 58) is fastened to the closure (3—3u), ~~for~~
~~example~~ by being molded on, e.g. using a two-component injection molding process.
73. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 69, wherein the groove holding the edge (55) of the container body
 or lower element is formed by a groove of a circular seal (25).

74. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable section is
 formed by a seal (25) on the closure (3e).
75. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the closure (3p, 3qu) can be screwed onto the container
 body or the lower container element.
76. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the closure can be pressed onto the container body or
 the lower container element.
77. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the closure is formed by a cap (34) with an inner seal
 that can be placed on the mouth of a bottle, wherein the cap is made of the permanently elastic
 material in at least one partial section (4.1) of its bottom.
78. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the closure (36, 37, 38) forms an outwardly closed
 hollow body (36.1, 37.1, 38.1), which when the closure is placed on the container (39) is
 connected with the interior of the container, and that the hollow body (36.1, 37.1, 38.1) is
 made of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force at least in one partial
 section of its peripheral wall.
79. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 53, wherein the elastic material with a high restoring force is an
 elastomer, ~~preferably an elastomer available under the brand name Styroflex.~~
80. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~
~~characterized in that the~~ claim 53, comprising a sealing element (25) forming the elastically
 deformable section ~~has~~ having a cross section with a larger cross section side in the axis

direction parallel to the container axis than in an axis direction extending perpendicular to the same.

81. (Currently Amended) Closure A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized by claim 53, further comprising means for limiting the movement stroke of the at least one elastic section, ~~for example~~ by belts or stops bridging the at least one elastically deformable section (59).
82. (Currently Amended) Closure A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 53, wherein the closure (44) consists of a ring-shaped closure body (45) with a seal (47) that can be placed on the respective container and of a membrane closing the opening of the ring-shaped closure body, said membrane being made of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force.
83. (Currently Amended) Closure A closure according to claim 82, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closure body (45) forms a protruding edge (48) on one side opposing the seal (47).
84. (Currently Amended) Closure A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 53, wherein the closure (52) comprises a closure body (53) designed as a hollow body (53.1) with an opening enclosed by a ring seal (47) and that the hollow body (53.1) is made in at least one partial section of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force.
85. (Currently Amended) Closure A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 53, wherein the closure (36, 37, 38, 44, 52) is designed as a reclosable closure for closing a container until the contents of the container are ultimately consumed.
86. (Currently Amended) Closure A closure according to ~~one of the foregoing claims,~~ characterized in that claim 53, wherein the closure outside of the elastically deformable section is made of a material other than plastic, ~~for example of such as~~ glass or metal.
87. (Currently Amended) ~~Automatic~~ An automatic valve for closing an opening (10), with a

valve seat enclosing the opening and with a valve body (11), which comprises one elastic or spring-action section (11.2) working together with the opening, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the valve body (11) consists of one first section (11.1) made of a hard material for fastening the valve body and of one elastically deformable section (11.2) provided on the first section that works together with the valve.

88. (Currently Amended) ~~Closure~~ The valve according to claim 87, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the valve body is made of plastic, ~~preferably~~ using the two-component injection molding process.